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8 March 1955



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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State Dept. review completed

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SOVIET UNION



2. Pravda denounces Malenkov's view on dangers of atomic war:



The denunciation by Pravda on 5 March of assertions that a third world war would mean the "destruction of world civilization" is viewed by the American embassy in Moscow as a thinly veiled attack on Malenkov, the only top Soviet leader ever to have voiced this line. Pravda states that this concept "plays into the hands of the imperialists," and reiterates the standard Soviet thesis that a third world war will spell the doom only of capitalism.

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In addition to reflecting on Malenkov, the statement, in the opinion of the embassy, may have been motivated by Soviet fear of betraying weakness and a feeling that too great an emphasis on the horrors of atomic warfare could backfire on other aspects of Soviet propaganda.

The embassy believes that Malenkov is being steadily isolated and unquestionably provides a "built-in scapegoat" for any failures in current policies. It sees this article as another step in the steady erosion of his position.

Comment: Although Malenkov himself referred to the "destruction of world civilization" only once--in March 1954--and the following month returned to the standard formulation, his statement was first explicitly repudiated in Molotov's Supreme Soviet speech on 8 February 1955. This emphasis on destruction of capitalism also coincides with a Soviet propaganda campaign designed to convince West Europeans that their countries may become an atomic battlefield if they support West German rearmament and NATO Council decisions on nuclear weapons.

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SOUTH ASIA

4. Nehru reportedly hopes to wean Ho Chi Minh from Communist China:

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Prime Minister Nehru is trying to wean Ho Chi Minh from Communist China and to direct him toward a closer relationship with the French, according to Indian vice president Radhakrishnan. Radhakrishnan said that Ho was considering the matter and had asked about India's association with the Commonwealth.

Comment: While Nehru may be engaged in such an attempt as part of his current effort to prevent further expansion of Chinese influence in Southeast Asia, he is unlikely to be successful in weaning Ho away from Communist China.

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EASTERN EUROPE

25X1A 6. Turkish suspicions of Yugoslav intentions increase:

[REDACTED] Turkish prime minister Menderes told Ambassador Warren on 4 March that during the meeting of the Balkan pact foreign ministers, the Yugoslav foreign minister had resisted all efforts to proceed with military planning. Menderes is convinced that Tito, following his visits to India and Burma and his conversation with Egyptian prime minister Nasr, prefers to develop the apparent advantage of a detached position.

Comment: Yugoslavia's diminishing enthusiasm for the broader military aspects of the Balkan alliance has been apparent for several months, although Belgrade has been working with the Greeks on local defense problems. In view of Yugoslavia's need for military assurances, particularly on its southern flank, limited co-operation in the Balkan pact is anticipated.

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